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REMARKS

Claims 9-14, 41-49, 88-89, 91-92, and 142-196 were pending in the application. New claims 197-206 have been added, claims 88 and 91 have been amended, and claims 89, 92, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, and 182 have been canceled, without prejudice. Thus, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 9-14, 41-49, 88, 91, 142-173, and 183-206 are pending in the application.

Support for the amendments to the claims and for the new claims can be found in the claims as originally filed and throughout the specification.

No new matter has been added. Applicants request that the amendments to the specification and claims be entered. The foregoing claim amendments and cancellation should in no way be construed as an acquiescence to any of the Examiner's rejections and were made solely to expedite prosecution of the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims as originally filed in this or a separate application(s).

Interview Summary

Applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for the telephone interviews with Applicants' attorney on January 14, 2004 and January 20, 2004. In particular, on January 14, 2004, the Examiner indicated that all of the pending claims, except for claims 89, 174, 175, 180, and 182, are allowable. The presented claims were discussed and agreed upon for submission during the telephone interviews.

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SUMMARY

Cancellation of and/or amendments to the claims should in no way be construed as an acquiescence to any of the Examiner's objections and/or rejections. The cancellation of the claims is being made solely to expedite prosecution of the above-identified application. Applicants reserve the option to further prosecute the same or similar claims in the present or another patent application. In view of the foregoing amendments, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. The amendments made to the claims are not related to any issues of patentability.

If a telephone conversation with Applicants' Attorney would expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application, the examiner is urged to call Applicants' Attorney at (617) 227-7400.

Respectfully submitted,



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